LAST DAYS OF

SPIDER-WOMAN

HELLYEAH

MARVEL

HOPELESS
BUSTOS
GANDINI

010

AS A CHILD, **JESSICA DREW** FELL ILL WITH A FATAL DISEASE. TO SAVE HER LIFE, HER SCIENTIST-FATHER INJECTED HER WITH A SERUM OF SPIDER BLOOD. THE INJECTION WORKED, BUT IT ALSO GAVE HER UNBELIEVABLE SPIDER-LIKE POWERS. WITH THIS POWER, JESSICA BECAME

SPIDER-WOMAN

JESSICA DREW QUIT THE AVENGERS IN ORDER TO LEAD A NORMAL, NON-SPANDEX LIFE AND HELP REGULAR PEOPLE. SO WHEN BEN URICH, ACE REPORTER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, ASKED FOR HER HELP INVESTIGATING CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SHE WAS HAPPY TO HELP.

JOINED BY ROGER GOCKING AKA PORCUPINE, A REFORMED SUPER VILLAIN, THE TRIO HAVE MADE THEIR WAY ACROSS AMERICA AND HAVE SOLVED A FEW CASES BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD.

THE AVENGERS AND THE END OF THE WORLD HAVE A WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH YA, THOUGH.

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE SECRET WARS #1

DENNIS HOPELESS
WRITER

NATACHA BUSTOS
ARTIST

VERO GANDINI
COLOR ARTIST

TRAVIS LANHAM
LETTERER

JAVIER RODRIGUEZ
COVER ARTIST

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
SENIOR EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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I COULD BE EATING FRENCH FRIES OFF THE DASH OF MY CADILLAC RIGHT NOW--

--COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF OUR IMMINENT DOOM--

--BASKING IN IGNORANCE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.

NO, JESS, I WOULD IMAGINE BY NOW...

...EVEN NORMALS HAVE NOTICED THE GIANT FLAMING DEATH PLANET.

SHUT UP.

I'M SAYING IT'S YOUR FAULT I'M HERE RIGHT NOW INSTEAD OF HOME.

YES, IT IS.
STRAP IN TIGHT BACK THERE. IT'S ABOUT TO GET BUMPY.
IT'S MY FAULT YOU HAD TO COME HELP SAVE THE WORLD.
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO NAME ONE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION I'VE MADE TO THIS WORLD SAVING.
STANDING AROUND LOOKING UNCOMFORTABLE WHILE OTHER PEOPLE ARGUE DOESN'T COUNT.
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE PILOTING A SHIP FULL OF BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS TO SAFE--
CO-PILOTING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY, JESS?
DO YOU WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE THAT YOUR NERVOUS BREAKDOWN P.I. FANTASY HAD TO COME TO AN END?
WE LEFT YOU ALONE FOR MONTHS TO GET YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT--
--BUT TIME'S UP. YOU'RE AN AVENGER.
AVENGERS DON'T GET TO BE NORMAL. NOT WHILE THE SKY IS ON FIRE.
WE DON'T GET TO RUN AROUND ALLEYWAYS BEATING UP D-LISTERS WITH BEN URICH.
AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TEACH THE PORCUPINE HOW TO BE A HERO.
I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I *QUIT*.

ROGER GOCKING. AKA: THE PORCUPINE. TOOK A SHOTGUN SLUG TO THE CHEST. PROBABLY DEAD.

BEN URICH. REPORTER. ALIVE BUT NOT WELL.

WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING THIS?

+COUGH+

WE DID NOTHING TO YOU.

+COUGH+

NOTHING TO WARRANT THIS.

SHVVLL

Some random field outside Dodge City, KS. 2 days ago.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

HEY, MAN, IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO TALK?

ROGER GOCKING. AKA: THE PORCUPINE. TOOK A SHOTGUN SLUG TO THE CHEST. CLEARLY NOT DEAD.

SEE, MAN, MY 'PINE SUIT IS LIKE 80% BULLETPROOF.

TAKES A LICKING SO I'M STILL TICKING.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU ALL MORNING.

BUT YOU GUYS WERE BUSY DIGGING THAT SHALLOW GRAVE--

AND I WAS BUSY PLAYING DEAD IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK.

OH, AND... I CAN FIRE A WHOLE CRAP-LOAD OF THESE KNOCKOUT QUILLS ALL AT ONCE--

JUST BY FLEXING BOTH PINKIES THREE TIMES FAST.

ROGER... YOU'RE ALIVE!

I KNOW, RIGHT?! PLAYING PORC POSSUM.

I WAS SURE ONE OF THOSE DUDES WOULD SHOOT ME IN THE FACE BEFORE I GOT ALL THE WAY TO THE QUILLS THING.

LUCKY FOR ME THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE THE BRIGHTEST CRAYONS IN THE SHED.

HEH, WELL...NICE WORK.

THANKS, MAN. NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS TAKE THEIR COWBOY TRUCK--

--AND GO FIND JESS.

UGH...

BEN?

BEN, MAN!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S WRONG?

AH, CRAP.

C'MON, MAN. WAKE UP. I DON'T...

YOU GOTTA...

...WAKE UP.

IS THIS REALLY YOUR PLAN, SHERIFF?

TO *SCARE* ME OFF MY GAME?

--WITH SOME HORROR MOVIE--

--SLAUGHTERHOUSE KILL CREW?!

SMASH

BAM

MAYBE DO A BIT OF *RESEARCH* NEXT TIME.

MY ORIGIN STORY IS SCARIER THAN THIS.

FOR THAT MATTER...

...SO IS YOUR SKEEVY HALF-STACHE.

SHUUSH

STILL STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THAT CREEP IS CONTROLLING EVERYONE.

WHAT HE'S DONE WITH BEN AND ROGER.

OR HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BEAT UP AN ENTIRE TOWN.

BUT I DID GET A SICK MUSTACHE BURN IN...

...SO THAT'S SOMETHING.

RIGHT, SO...THEY KEEP ALL THE ALIVE COWS OUT BACK.

SMELLS INCREDIBLE.

IF THIS WHOLE THING IS SOMEONE'S ELABORATE PLOY TO TURN ME OFF CHEESEBURGERS--

IT.

IS.

WORKING.

HEY!

WHAT IS THAT?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER?!

MOOOOO!

MOOOO

I REALLY REALLY REALLY--

--HATE THIS PLACE.

HULK COWS. SURE. AND WHY NOT?

COME ON, BENNY, STAY WITH ME.

YOU'RE GONNA BE PEACHY KEEN, MAN. THIS IS THE HOSPITAL.

LET'S JUST GET YOU INSIDE AND...

Western Plains Medical Compl

NEED SOME FREAKING *HELP* OVER HERE!

SOMEBODY *COME HELP!*

UMM...

NOPE! NOPE!

TURN HIM AROUND!

YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO BE IN HERE!

YEAH WE *DO*, MAN! HE'S BEEN *SHOT* AND THAT'S THE *HOSPITAL!*

ON ANY OTHER DAY I WOULD AGREE WITH THAT PERFECTLY SOUND LOGIC BUT *TODAY* WE ARE *LEAVING.*

IT WILL BE OKAY. I'M A NURSE. I CAN HELP.

HE'S ALREADY LOST ALL KINDS OF BLOOD. WE NEED A DOCTOR.

WELL, AS OF THIS MORNING, THE DOCTORS ARE ALL DEAD-EYED, HIVE MIND ZOMBIES WITH A PULSE, SO... I'M ALL YOU GET.

NOW WILL YOU PLEASE GET UP FRONT AND *DRIVE* US OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS ADRENALINE WEARS OFF AND I START SOBBING UNCONTROLLABLY?

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO, MAN?!
DOESN'T MATTER. ANYWHERE. AWAY.
THIS IS CRAZY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE?!
Western Pla[illegible] Medical Complex
HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN LIKE THIS?
I'M NOT SURE. I SPENT THE LAST TWO DAYS HOME ALONE WITH MY DVR AND A FAMILY-SIZE BOX OF FRUITY PEBBLES.
CAME IN THIS MORNING TO THAT. EVERYONE WAS NORMAL ON TUESDAY.
WELL, NOBODY'S NORMAL NOW.
WE GOT ATTACKED BY A BUNCH OF WEIRDO COWBOYS OUTSIDE BOOT HILL. THEN A SWARM OF THOSE DEAD EYES GRABBED MY FRIEND JESS.
IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE TOWN WENT CRAZY OVERNIGHT.
YEAH, MAN, EVERYONE BUT YOU.
WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT YOU?
HA. THERE'S A LOADED QUESTION.
WELL, I DON'T THINK THE FRIGGIN' FRUITY PEBBLES SAVED YOUR BRAIN.
UNLESS YOU BELIEVE MY DAD WHEN HE SAYS I'M THE ONLY PRACTICING VEGAN IN WESTERN KANSAS.
OR REMEMBER ME RIDING THE BENCH ON OUR STATE-CHAMPION DODGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL LADY DEMONS' SOCCER TEAM.
THERE'S NOT MUCH OF ANYTHING *SPECIAL* ABOUT ME.
I DUNNO, MAN, THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME...
WAIT.
YOU DON'T EAT MEAT?
UM... NO.

5 minutes later.

National Beef

THE PACKING PLANT? YOU CAN'T REALLY THINK--

HEY, I'M PRETTY NEW TO THE DETECTIVE GAME, BUT, LIKE...

...WE GOT A TOWN FULL OF MINDLESS MEAT-EATERS, ONE SMARTY PANTS VEGAN AND A BIG OL' MEAT-PACKING PLANT.

THAT'S A CRAZY LEAP. BESIDES, NATIONAL BEEF'S BEEN HERE FOR LIKE THIRTY YEARS.

JESS SAYS THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION IS USUALLY THE RIGHT ONE.

AND YOU'D CALL TAINTED-MEAT ZOMBIES A SIMPLE EXPLANATION?

NOT REALLY, BUT I ALWAYS SCREW STUFF UP DOING IT JESS'S WAY.

I'M HUNCH MAN. THIS FEELS RIGHT TO ME.

WELL, THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED. YOU'RE STABLE.

NOW I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO WAKE UP AND CONVINCE ME YOUR FRIEND--

"--IS AT LEAST A *LITTLE BIT* MORE COMPETENT THAN HE SEEMS."

National Beef

ALL RIGHT, CARSON DOWLING, CEO--FIFTH FLOOR.

SHOW ME SOME EVIL DOINGS...

HOLY ^&%#!

I WAS *RIGHT*. THE EVIL MEAT MAN DUNNIT.

WHOA...

THEY'RE NOT ZOMBIES. THEY'RE NON-PLAYER CHARACTERS.

IT'S A GAME.

SO...

DUDE MARINATED THE BEEF IN SOME KIND OF MIND SAUCE--

--AND HE'S PLAYING THE WHOLE TOWN AGAINST US.

BINGO.

PDW

YOU CAN STOP NOW, JESS.

THE FIGHT IS OVER.

NO!

FOOOM

IT ISN'T OVER!

SLUMP

NOT YET!

SOMETIMES YOU FIGHT TO WIN.

THUNK

THAT SHIP HAS CLEARLY SAILED.

SOMETIMES YOU FIGHT TO GET AWAY.

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR ME TO GO.

OUCH. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

IT'S TOUGH TO CONTROL ALL THE BIG GREEN BULLS.

AND SOMETIMES YOU FIGHT...

...BECAUSE IT'S BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE.

WHOA, MAN!

JESS, MAN...
RELAX.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
JUST ALL THE NORMAL STUFF.
IT'S ME.
ROGER.
IT'S ROGER.
LOOK AROUND. GAME'S OVER.
ROGER? I DON'T...
MOOOO...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THIS IS DODGE CITY, DARLIN'--
--NOTHING GOING ON HERE--
--BUT A LITTLE OL'--
--BOOT-SCOOTIN'--
--BOOGIEEEEE!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...
SORRY. I KNOW.
IT'S A WHOLE BIG MEAT-PUPPET THING.
I'LL TELL YOU WITH MY OWN MOUTH HERE IN A MINUTE.

Later.

AND THEN THEY ALL STARTED *LINE DANCING.*

HAHAHAHA.

I DUNNO, MAN. SEEMED LIKE THE THING TO DO.

Thunderbird MOTEL

CLEAN ROOMS

COLOR TV CABLE HBO

VACANCY

HEY, I AM *NOT* COMPLAINING.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR WEIRDO MIND WORKING LIKE IT DOES, WE'D ALL BE PRAIRIE BURIED.

YOU WERE ABOUT TO GUT THAT POOR SHERIFF RIGHT WHERE HE STOOD.

HAHA HAHAHA!

OH, GOD. STITCHES. PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

DO YOU WANT ME TAKE OVER THE ICE DUTY, JESS? YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING THAT EMPTY BUCKET FOR LIKE HALF AN HOUR.

I'M GOING. I'M GOING.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR CADILLAC IS LEAKING A LITTLE OIL.

HEH. I'D BE MORE SURPRISED IF YOU TOLD ME SHE'S...

...HOLDING ONTO SOME OF IT.

I SEE YOU *DID* RECEIVE MY PACKAGE.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE TEXTS AND VOICEMAILS?

COVERAGE IS SPOTTY OUT HERE.

YOUR *BRAIN* IS SPOTTY.

WE ALREADY HAD THIS CONVERSATION, NATASHA.

REMEMBER? THERE WAS YELLING.

NO MORE AVENGERS, SECRET OR OTHERWISE.

I'M DONE.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR RETIREMENT...BUT WE NEED YOU. --BW.

THE MULTIVERSE CAN *SUCK* IT. NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

MY FRIENDS AND I NEED MORE ICE FOR OUR CELEBRATORY PLASTIC CUP COCKTAILS.

YOU DON'T GET TO BE DONE. NOT WITH WHAT'S COMING.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE COMING THAT THE 900 AVENGERS WHO AREN'T ME COULDN'T STOP WITHOUT ME?

THE MULTIVERSE--

YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING TO DIE IN A FIRE WITH EVERY OTHER LIVING THING WHEN AN ALTERNATE-UNIVERSE EARTH CRASHES INTO THIS ONE.

SEE, THERE YOU GO. MY NEW NORMAL LIFE MAY BE A STUMBLING, BUMBLING UNDERCOOKED MESS--

--BUT UNTIL JUST NOW I HADN'T HEARD THE WORD MULTIVERSE IN THREE MONTHS.

AND THAT'S *AWESOME*. I DON'T *CARE* WHAT THE MULTIVERSE IS DOING.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE ABOUT HOW FAR WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO PREVENT *THE DEATH OF EVERYTHING* BUT--

--PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE AGREES IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK.

I DON'T... WHAT CAN I EVEN...

THERE'S NO WINNING THIS ARGUMENT, IS THERE?

YES. I JUST DID.

SIGH

FINE.

I GUESS LET'S GO.

I'LL WAIT A FEW MINUTES IF YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE.

NO...

LET'S JUST GO.

I THINK THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

MARVEL

SPIDER-WOMAN

Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print from Marvel HQ!

ITEM: First of all, let's give a big thanks to our special guest artists for this issue, Natacha Bustos and Vero Gandini. With SECRET WARS bringing everything to an end, we knew we'd need a slightly different style for this particular issue, and Javier Rodriguez, the regular artist on the series, recommended Natacha. We couldn't be happier with her work on this issue – it's evocative of Javier's unique style, but, with Vero's terrific color work, brings things to a close in a very special way.

That said, let's get to the spider in the room… that this is the last issue of SPIDER-WOMAN. Since we launched this series as a part of the SPIDER-VERSE epic, the response from fans has been absolutely tremendous. Not only have y'all out there in Mighty Marveldom loved seeing Jess getting her own series again, but something about Dennis telling her story has struck a chord in you. Something about her stepping away from her place as an Avenger resonated, and we in the Spider-Office couldn't be gladder. Something about the way everyone's favorite web-swingin', wise-crackin' woman has tried her best to live a real, normal life just sings.

Part of what makes Jessica Drew such a compelling character is that she IS so human. She's tough as nails and doesn't back down, but has her moments of quiet vulnerability and genuine emotion. Getting to see Dennis work through those beats has been a real privilege, and even though we've just dropped Jess into the end of the world with this SECRET WARS tie-in, she's still got plenty of adventures up her sleeve.

How's that, you ask?

Well, True Believer, you're just going to have to keep reading.

It's not all Doom (ha!) and gloom, though (even though it IS the end of the Marvel Universe as you know it) – this volume of SPIDER-WOMAN has been a real treat in and of itself! Not only did we get off to an incredible start with the legendary Greg Land leading the charge out of SPIDER-VERSE, but we were lucky enough to have Javier Rodriguez come aboard to keep telling Jess' story once the events of SPIDER-VERSE came to a close. When Jess quit her time as an Avenger, we knew we'd need someone who could bring super hero action to the fore, while also anchoring the story in those quiet, intimate moments that you can only get when Jessica Drew, Spider-Woman and former Avenger, had a serious and meaningful talk with Roger Gocking, weirdo and no-name villain The Porcupine, about how they're both going to help Ben Urich in his journalistic war on crime. It's oddball, it's zany, and, above all, it's fun. Javier's art reflects that, and it's part of the reason we're not messing with the formula.

You read that right.

Once SECRET WARS is over, we're not only going to be bringing Jessica Drew back in the red leather jacket (which, by the way, is totally rad and I'd buy it in a heartbeat if they made it in mens' sizes) and spider-shades, but we'll be bringing Dennis Hopeless and Javier Rodriguez to keep telling their story. Eight months later, what will Jessica Drew's world look like? If you've been living under a rock, we won't spoil anything for you. Suffice it to say, though, she's DUE for some BIG changes.

As always, write us here at Marvel HQ to let us know what you think of what we're doing. SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM is where you can find us, and be sure to mark your letters OKAY TO PRINT!

Over and out!

Devin

ZONE